

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05287 190823Z

11

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EUR-12 ACDA-05 MC-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-01 IO-10 /096 W

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R 190740Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8230

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, IN

SUBJECT: SALE OF ITALIAN M-113 APC'S TO INDIA

REF: A) STATE 088581

B) NEW DELHI 5200 (NOTAL)

1. WE BELIEVE THE INDIANS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL APC'S IF THE PRICE AND FINANCING WERE ATTRACTIVE. THE INDIAN ARMY NOW HAS FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF APC'S IN ITS FIRST LINE INVENTORY, 2 SOVIET TYPES, AND 2 CZECH MODELS. THEY HAVE DEVELOPED AN INDIGENOUS APC, BUT PRODUCTION IN QUANTITY IS PROBABLY AT LEAST TWO YEARS DISTANT. THE DAO HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE INDIANS ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE CZECHS FOR ADDITIONAL TOPAZ MODEL APC'S. AT PRESENT THE INDIAN ARMY HAS A POSSIBLE SHORTFALL OF AS MANY AS 75-100 APC'S TO FULLY EQUIP HER ARMORED UNITS AND STILL MAINTAIN SUFFICIENT RESERVES.

2. THE POSSIBILITY OF THE INDIANS ORDERING APC'S DIRECTLY FROM THE US IS UNLIKELY. SUCH A MOVE WOULD IMPLY INDIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW US ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. INDIA MAY  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05287 190823Z

ULTIMATELY BUY US ARMS BUT IS NOT LIKELY TO DO SO FOR

SOME TIME (REF B). MOREOVER, WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM EITHER INDIAN MILITARY OFFICERS OR COMMERICAL AGENTS WHICH WOULD INDICATE AN INTEREST IN ACQUIRING APCS FROM THE US. IF THE GOI WERE INTERESTED IN THE M-113 APC WE BELIEVE IT WOULD PREFER TO DEAL THROUGH A THIRD COUNTRY SINCE THAT WOULD BE MORE PALATABLE POLITICALLY THAN DIRECT PROCUREMENT FROM THE US.

3. THERE IS NO APPARENT ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE FOR THE INDIANS IN PURCHASING APCS FROM ITALY UNLESS THE ITALIANS WERE WILLING TO OFFER FINANCING AT CONCESSIONARY RATES.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 19 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NEWDE05287  
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